



## **DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13**

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JULY 6, 2006 PAUHI RECREATION CENTER**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Smyth at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alvin Au, Lynne Matusow, Carl Middleton, Dolores Mollring, Karl Rhoads, Tom Smyth, Stanford Yuen.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Richard Brawley, Burton White.

**GUESTS:** Daniel Constantancio, John and Min Lee Koch, Joan Jacob, Amy Hirono and Susan Kusunoki (PMCI), Lt. O. Harada, Sgt. R. Tsujioka, Detective D. Takayama, Officer Sugoso (HPD), Capt. Yoshimoto (HFD-Central Station), Cindy McMillan, Bill Brennan (Mayor's Office), Senator Gordon Trimble, Representative Bev Harbin, Al Canopin (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office), Kristi Sue Ako (Senator Gordon Trimble's Office), Gary Omori, Ed Korbyski (Honolulu Culture and Arts District), Alan Feliciano (Safe Haven), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS:** The Board members introduced themselves at this time.

### **REPORTS AND PUBLIC CONCERNS:**

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Capt. Yoshimoto reported the following:

1. Last month the station responded to 5 structure, 3 brush and 12 rubbish fires, 82 medical emergencies, 2 search and rescue, 23 miscellaneous calls. The station responded to one major incident last month, the fire at the UH Lab School.
2. Fire Safety Tip: Take the time to childproof your home, especially since keiki are on summer vacation. Check for potentially dangerous situations, i.e. electric shock, accidental falls, or poisoning from medications, cleaning fluids, and houseplants. Keep matches and lights in a safe place and out of the reach of small children.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Thanks were extended for the department's work.
2. Use of fireworks in Smith – Beretania Park is a police enforcement matter.

Capt. Yoshimoto was thanked for attending the meeting.

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT** – Officer Sugoso reported statistics for May included 3 robberies, 12 burglaries, 31 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles, 15 auto thefts, 7 aggravated assaults, 32 simple assaults, 132 motor vehicle collisions, 7 DUI, no sex offenses, 8 family offenses, 15 drug offenses, 4 graffiti.

Lt. Harada reported that use of fireworks in a public park like Smith – Beretania Park is illegal.

Detective Takayama distributed informational brochures on: Home Security Tips; Business Security Tips; Attack Crime – Business Alert Handbook; and Citizens Handbook – How To Protect Yourself and Property From Crime.

Questions, answers and comments followed:



1. The urination and defecation law seems to be working in helping keep areas clean.
2. Four to six of the security cameras are not working at this time.
3. It was suggested that there be a "prostitution free zone" in the Downtown/Chinatown area like there is in Waikiki. Lt. Harada noted that the Weed and Seed program creates something like a "prostitution free zone," but the area where prostitution is a problem is out of the Weed and Seed and geographic restrictions zone. Violations of geographic restrictions are a contempt of court violation. The law would need to be changed to further address the problem.
4. There are drug and alcohol problems occurring in Smith-Beretania Park, and it was suggested Community Oriented Policing be used to address the problem.
5. Prostitution activity persists in the Kukui Street area, from the early mornings into the evenings. This problem is being addressed with undercover work, including the use of reverse stings targeting johns. It was suggested that the names of johns be publicized, like it was in a case seen on television today involving a case at Liliuokalani Botanical Gardens, and Lt. Harada noted that the media decides whether or not to publicize names of persons arrested which are available to them.
6. Thanks were expressed for enforcement action on illegal turns at the intersection of Nuuanu Avenue and Beretania Street.
7. The homicide earlier this week in Chinatown will be reflected in the July statistics, the statistics reported earlier were for the month of May.
8. At the Mayor's Chinatown Summit, there was an announcement that volunteers are needed to monitor the security cameras at the HPD Chinatown Substation. Lt. Harada will follow up with a guest on this matter.

Lt. Harada, Sgt. Tsujioka, Detective Takayama, Officer Suguso were thanked for attending the meeting.

**CITIZENS PATROL** – Mollring reported the patrol has seen an increase in prostitution activity, including new prostitutes, and do report their observations to officers at the Chinatown Substation.

**HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY** – No representative was present.

**HONOLULU CULTURE AND ARTS DISTRICT** – Ed Korybski reported the following:

1. He will be following up on some matters brought up at the Mayor's Chinatown Summit, including work on organizing residents and landowners to be more proactive in addressing problems, and a documentary film.
2. The Nuuanu Blues, Brews and BBQ on July 15 is related to First Friday events.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The development of loft spaces is being complicated by prohibitive costs as some buildings lack infrastructure, meeting ADA requirements is expensive, etc.
2. First Friday is in its fifth year. The Culture and Arts district provides support services to organizers.
3. Follow up will be done about concerns relating to new street closures for the July 15 events at Murphys Bar and Grill, that will close Merchant Street, between Nuuanu Avenue and Bethel Street.

Korbski was thanked for attending the meeting.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE** – Senator Trimble distributed copies of his newsletter which was mailed to constituents. It contains a survey and the results will be available next month. He also reported that the Legislature is waiting to see which bills the Governor vetoes.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

He was thanked for his work this session.

Senator Trimble was thanked for attending the meeting.

**REPRESENTATIVE BEV HARBIN** – Representative Harbin reported the following:

1. She has been monitoring concerns about Club Pauuahi and attended the recent Liquor Commission hearing for its liquor license where testimony was presented by the Police Department and Ft. Street Mall Business Improvement District.
2. Her office has been receiving calls from constituents with questions about, and are welcome to continue to call about changes to the State's Quest medical insurance program.
3. Work is being done on a Weed and Seed Program meeting for the community to get answers about problems with the program, sometime in August.

Representative Harbin was thanked for attending the meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBER ROD TAM** - Al Canopin, from Councilmember Tam's Office, reported the following:

1. The Council has deferred taking action on a proposal to rename Pele Street Park after Ceasar and Eleanor Gomes until an upcoming meeting.
2. Complaints have been received about gambling, drugs and other illegal activities on the River Street Mall.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Development of public restrooms in the Downtown/Chinatown area was requested.

Canopin was thanked for attending the meeting.

**MAYOR'S OFFICE** – Bill Brennan, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the following:

1. In response to questions from last month's meeting regarding pedestrian crossing signals at Ft. Street Mall and Beretania Street, Alakea and Queen streets, and Kukui and Maunakea streets, the Department of Transportation Services repaired faulty pedestrian push buttons.
2. In response to a question from last month's meeting regarding the necessity of a crosswalk across Bishop Street and Adams Lane, the Department of Transportation Services reports that "The City utilizes the traffic signal warrants outlined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) that is approved by the Federal Highways Administrator as the national standard, to determine whether a traffic signal is justified at a particular location. Both the Peak Hour Volume and Minimum Pedestrian Volume warrants were met at the Adams Lane/Bishop Street intersection. There were concerns with pedestrian-vehicle conflicts when the crosswalk was located on the makai side of the intersection. Therefore, the crosswalk was relocated to the mauka side when the traffic signals were installed. The measures that were taken at this intersection were in conformance with the MUTCD, and we believe it has significantly improved the intersection safety for the pedestrians and motorists."
3. In response to a question about cars being seen on the Hotel Street bus mall and suggestion for more signs on cross streets indicating cars are not allowed on Hotel Street, the Department of Transportation Services reports that "...there is adequate signage posted at cross streets informing motorists that turning onto Hotel Street is restricted. HPD has been notified of this concern, and they will take appropriate

enforcement actions. The public may also assist HPD by contacting them whenever violations are observed.”

4. Turnout at the Mayor's Chinatown Summit last month was good. Development of a drop-in center and public restrooms in the Downtown/Chinatown area was discussed.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Development of public restrooms in the Downtown/Chinatown area was requested. It was noted public accessible restrooms are available, including at the HPD Chinatown Substation, and the River of Life Mission. Previously, suggestions were made that signs indicating these locations be posted.
2. Positive comments have been received from those who attended the Mayor's Chinatown Summit, and Brennan noted the Administration is working to capitalize on the momentum from the Summit, and no details are available at this time about follow-up meetings. It was suggested that information from the Summit be placed on the City's web site.
3. Improvement to the maintenance of Smith – Beretania Park was requested, and it was noted that both the Departments of Facility Maintenance, and Parks and Recreation, have maintenance responsibilities for this park.

Brennan was thanked for attending the meeting.

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE** – A representative from the Governor's Office was not present. Smyth reported that the Governor can only veto bills previously identified on a list of bills that may be vetoed, and that the Governor has a deadline of July 11 to sign bills, veto them, or allow them to become law without being signed, and that only five bills have been vetoed to date.

**SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND** – A packet of informational materials was received and made available for interested persons to review.

#### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

**REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS** – Guests expressed interest in volunteering to: 1) paint out graffiti, and it was noted work is being done with property owners to do cleanups on their property as community cleanup projects are limited to public property, 2) work at the HPD Chinatown Substation monitoring the security cameras, volunteers must receive a security clearance and training from HPD, 3) become members of the Citizens Patrol and participate in the Tuesday evening patrols, interested persons may see Mollring, 4) Safe Haven, which provides social services to mentally ill homeless persons, interested persons may see Alan Feliciano. Safe Haven will also be added to the Board's agenda for updates at future meetings.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**UPDATE ON PACIFIC QUAY PROJECT AT PIERS 5 AND 6 NEAR ALOHA TOWER** – Chair Smyth reported the developer was unable to attend this meeting, but that a presentation will be made at next month's meeting by the developer/Aloha Tower Development Corporation.

**CLUB PAUHI, CHANGES TO IMPROVE BUSINESS AND ADDRESS COMMUNITY CONCERNS** – John and Mil Lee Kock, owners of Club Pauhi, reported that the club will be renamed Mall Café, and plans are to change it to a cafeteria dining type of establishment, providing evening meals in a cocktail lounge atmosphere. Renovations are planned, including relocation of current restrooms to their former location where they can be better monitored from the bar as the former location was more secluded and allowed for possible illicit activity. Other changes include eliminating the live band which attracted an undesirable clientele, retain karaoke, sending managers and employees to training by the Liquor Commission, adding a private security that would be able to address problems outside of the business, and working with HPD on addressing community concerns about drug activity. The changes are intended to attract a different clientele.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The Liquor Commission renewed the liquor license for one year, and required a follow-up appearance before the Commission in three months.
2. HPD did a reverse sting on site and found no drug activity.
3. Min Lee has been either the manager or owner for the past six years.
4. Mollring reported the Citizens Patrol encountered no problems at this business when making its patrols.

The Kocks were thanked for attending the meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**BERETANIA STREET RESURFACING PROJECT** – Amy Hirono, from PMCI, a consultant on the project, reported the resurfacing project involves the area between Alapai and N. King streets, and Maunakea Street between Beretania and Pauahi streets. Work is expected to begin in August, start at Alapai Street, and take one year to complete. Work will be done only during the day, except for the section between Alapai and Alakea streets where there are no adjacent residences making night work practical. A web site and 24-hour hotline will be established.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. State Department of Health requirements relating to noise have to be met for night work.
2. The work includes removal of the old road surface, installation of new underground wiring, new bases for traffic signal and street lights, new drain lines, catch basins, gutters, ADA ramps, sidewalk repair, and concrete bus pads.
3. Updates will be provided to the Board at upcoming meetings.
4. Work is being done to not have the construction work adversely impact community events such as block parties, parades, etc.
5. Follow up will be done on the hours for night work.
6. Follow up will be done on when the last resurfacing was done.
7. The project will take one year to complete.

**Matusow moved and Mollring seconded that the Board supports the project as presented, thanks the Mayor for going forward, and for no night work in the residential areas.** Discussion followed.

1. Follow up will be done if the recent asphalt shortage will have an impact on this project, and total cost of the project.
2. Work will be completed in one section before going on to the next section.
3. All businesses along the route have been individually contacted and informed about the project.
4. This project was initiated by the past Administration, cancelled by, and later restored by the current Administration.
5. This section of Beretaina Street was given a topcoat resurfacing three years ago.
6. Brennan welcomed input on community events that could be adversely impacted by this project, and noted that work will be done with the contractor on making accommodations.
7. It was suggested that there be incentives for the contractor to complete the work ahead of schedule.

**The motion carried, 6-1.** Middleton opposed.

**CHINATOWN GATEWAY DAYCARE CENTER TERMINATION** – Deferred.

**NUUANU BLUES, BREWS AND BBQ ON JULY 15** – Previously addressed under Honolulu Culture and Arts District.

**HANK'S CAFÉ EXPANSION** – Chair Smyth briefly reviewed a letter received that outlined the expansion which includes use of the second floor, has been completed.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO CITY AND COUNTY PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE MAPS** – Chair Smyth briefly outlined the City's process to place symbols for planned projects on Public Infrastructure Maps for funding and planning, and noted the removal of the symbol for the Pele Street Mini Park, which has been completed.

**REQUEST TO ADD TO THE AGENDA, NAMING OF BOARD MEMBERS TO PERMITTED INTERACTOIN GROUP TO ATTEND KUKUI PLAZA MEETING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING CYCLE** – Chair Smyth requested adding an item to the agenda to name Board members to attend a July 18 meeting at Kukui Plaza on community concerns following a homicide in the Nuuanu Avenue and Kukui Street area near Kukui Plaza. **Matusow moved and Rhoads seconded to add this item to the agenda.** Discussion followed. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**NAMING OF BOARD MEMBERS TO PERMITTED INTERACTOIN GROUP TO ATTEND KUKUI PLAZA MEETING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING CYCLE** – Chair Smyth reported the formation of a Permitted Interaction Group is necessary for more than two Board members to attend the meeting.

Mollring reported the meeting is not open to the public, but is intended for residents of Kukui Plaza and guests invited include HPD, elected officials, and the Citizens Patrol. She will follow up if Board members will be able to attend.

Matusow reported that the Permitted Interaction Group attending the meeting would report back to the full Board.

Members volunteering to attend the meeting were Mollring, Matusow and Rhoads. Mollring is a resident of Kukui Plaza, Matusow is chair of the condominium association for the nearby Honolulu Tower, and Rhoads is a member of the Citizens Patrol.

Middleton went on a tirade, opposing Rhoads attending the meeting, claiming that Rhoads, a candidate for the House of Representatives, by attending would violate State and federal election laws as other candidates for the same House seat, including Middleton, would not have the same opportunity to attend this meeting.

Chair Smyth noted there is no violation of election laws.

Middleton's tirade continued where he threatened a lawsuit and going to the State Attorney General to stop Rhoads from attending.

Chair Smyth offered, and Middleton declined the opportunity to be a member of the Permitted Interaction Group.

Rhoads also noted there is no violation of election laws, and that he would be attending the meeting as a member of the Citizens Patrol.

Middleton's tirade continued, with additional, challenging comments directed at Rhoads at this and other points during this portion of the meeting.

Rhoads noted he deems Middletown's comments as approaching terroristic threatening.

**The motion carried, 6-1.** Middleton opposed, but only after being repeatedly asked for his vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2006 REGULAR MEETING** – The following corrections were made:

Page 4, under Cars on Hotel Street Bus Mall, it should read "...seeing cars on the Hotel Street bus mall..."

Page 6, under Weed and Seed, it should read "...event on First Friday in August..."

The minutes were approved as corrected.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**CHAIR'S REPORT** – Chair Smyth reported the following:

**STREET CLOSURES** – First Friday Merchant Street Street Festival, July 7, closing Merchant Street, between Nuuanu Avenue and Bethel Street.

Receipt of a letter from the Department of Transportation Services, on plans to remove a "no parking" zone on the mauka side of Merchant Street, between Alakea and Richards streets, approximately six parking spaces will be affected.

**LIQUOR LICENSE CHANGES** – Chair Smyth and Vice Chair Matusow reported receipt of notices from the Liquor Commission for: a) Seoul Kitchen Buffet, 1221 Alapai Street, for a Dispenser General License, b) Tower Grill, Aloha Tower Marketplace, former location of Big Island Steakhouse, for a Restaurant General License.

It was noted the Liquor Commission has a new administrator, who it is hoped will resolve past problems with this agency.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA** – The Ft. Street Mall BID (Business Improvement District) has been added to the agenda for monthly updates and it may adopt Walker Park, at the makai end of Ft. Street Mall. The park is owned by the State Department of Transportation, which provides only basic maintenance.

Regarding emergency vehicle sirens, the Emergency Medical Services, will make a presentation at the next Board meeting.

Authorizing use of the publicity budget for publication of the Board's next newsletter will be placed on a future agenda.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Deferred.

**NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION, NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN REVISION PROJECT** – Chair Smyth reported the Neighborhood Commission has formed a Permitted Interaction Group to work on the review of draft revisions. When these reviews are completed, the Neighborhood Boards will have the opportunity to review a new draft. Plans are for the public hearing process to be held before the end of this year.

**STATE AFFAIRS** – Chair Smyth had nothing to add from the Governor's Office report.

**CITY AFFAIRS** - Chair Smyth reported construction on the sewer line project along Ft. Street Mall, between King and Pauahi streets, and on Hotel Street, between Bethel and Bishop streets, has begun. Work is being done only at night.

**OMPO** – No report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** – Mollring noted HPD recently monitored the intersection of Nuuanu Avenue and Beretania Street, for red light runners.

**WEED AND SEED** – Mollring reported the next Weed and Seed meeting is scheduled for July 16, Central YMCA on Atkinson Boulevard.

**TRANSPORTATION PERMITTED PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP** – Chair Smyth reported a round of public meetings on the High Capacity Transit Corridor Project were held. In this area the meeting was held at Aliamanu

Intermediate School. There were changes to the Nimitz Highway flyover proposal and information on double decking the Queen Street route.

**MAYOR'S CHINATOWN SUMMIT** – Matusow noted that the portion of the meeting with HPD turned into a grip session.

Chair Smyth reported topics covered included: a River Street Mall, conversion of City-owned building into a homeless facility, desire for increasing night time activity, providing incentives for the arts, more resurfacing of Nimitz Highway, seeking of additional funding for the Preserve America Neighborhood designation for Chinatown improvements, development of a second Sun Yat Sen memorial, dragon boat festival, \$4000 grants, transient oriented development along the mass transit route, installation of Wifi in Chinatown which could also improve the security camera system.

**COMPLAINTS TO NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP** – Chair Smyth reported the Permitted Interaction Group has submitted its response to the second complaint to the Neighborhood Commission.

Copies of the response to the first complaint were previously distributed to members for their review. There was no Board action on the response to this complaint.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**ADJORNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu  
Neighborhood Assistant

Minutes of the meeting are subject to approval at the next meeting.